to their reports the spillage was self cleaned an did not compare with Ravva crude.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Smuggling of "TEXUS BACATTA"

774. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Taxus Bacatta", a tree which grows naturally in Kashmir forests and produces "Texol", a potent anti-cancer drug, is very much sought after by forest mafias, who smuggle its bark and needle-like leaves to different countries of the West as reported in the Indian Express of January 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent this exploitation of forest wealth and its smuggling;

(c) whether this tree is becoming fast extinct; and

(d) the steps being taken to carry out research on the effectiveness of texol as an anti-cancer drug, and to patent it?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIROMENT AND FORESTS (PROF SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The Chief Wildlife Warden, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir has informed that *Taxus bacatta* (also known as *Taxus Wallichiana)* is well protected in the Kashmir Vally and there are no reports of its smuggling.

(b) and (c) *Taxus bacatta* and its parts and products is prohibited for export under the current Import-Export policy, unless it is of cultivated origin. It is also included under Appendix II of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which regulates international trade in the species and its parts and products. The species is not becoming fast extinct.

(d) Taxol is a known anti-cancer natural compound isolated from the leaves of *Taxus bacatta* and the stem bark of *Taxus brevifolia* and cannot be patented. However, if a novel method of its synthesis is developed it can be patented. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are supporting research on Taxol.

Polluting Tanneries in Naad of Tamil Nadu

775. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tanneries which are allowing the untreated effluent waters into the Palar River in North-Arcot Ambedkar District (NAAD) of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether any action has been taken by Government against those tanneries which are not constructing the Effluent Treatment Plants; and

(c) the names of tanneries running without constructing Effluent Treatment Plant in Melvisharam, Ranipet, Vellore, Ambur and Vaniyampadi in North Arcot Ambedkar District of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIROMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) There are no tanneries, which have been allowed to discharge the untreated effluent into river Palar in North Arcot Ambedkar District of Tamil Nadu.

(b) The Supreme Court and High Court have already issued direction to close the tanneries which have not installed Effluent Treatment Plants either individually or collectively. The tanneries will remain closed until they install Effluent Treatment Plant either individually or collectively and approach the Court for further action.

(c) There are no tanneries running/operating without the installation of Effluent Treatment Plant in Melvisharam, Ranipet, Vellore, Ambur and Vaniyam-